

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-16 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A'. Claims 1-2 and 4-16 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of lack of labels in FIGs 1-6. In response, labels have been added to FIGs 1-6. Replacement sheets including FIGs 1-6 are enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed

proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,118,613 (Kojima). Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kojima in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,783,774 (Enomoto). Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kojima in view of Enomoto and U.S. Patent No. 5,635,848 (Hammond). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kojima in view of Hammond. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2 and 4-16 are patentable Kojima, Enomoto and Hammond for at least the following reasons.

Kojima is directed to an electromagnetic actuator drive circuit connected to a negative resistance circuit shown as reference numeral 36 in FIG 5 and reference numeral 37 in FIG 6. As recited on column 12, lines 10-27 and column 13, lines 20-43, the negative resistance circuits 36, 37 are operated based on the frequency of the signal source 5 being higher or lower than a cut-off frequency.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in

independent claim 1, amongst other patentable elements, specifically recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

changing electrical damping of the actuator by selectively activating at least one switch for switching in or out an electrical damping element providing a negative resistance.

A switch which is selectively activated for switching in or out an electrical damping element providing a negative resistance is nowhere taught or suggested in Kojima. Enomoto and Hammond are cited to allegedly show other features and do not remedy the deficiencies in Kojima. Rather, the Kojima negative resistance circuits 36, 37 are operated based on the frequency.

Further, the present invention as recited in independent claim 8, amongst other patentable elements, specifically recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

at least once switch for selective connecting the input resistor to at least one of the first resistor and the second resistor.

A switch which is selectively activated for connecting the input resistor to at least one of the first resistor and the second resistor is nowhere taught or suggested in Kojima

In addition, Kojima, Enomoto, Hammond, and combinations

thereof do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, and similarly recited in independent claim 12, amongst other patentable elements, specifically recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

an electrical damping element having a negative resistance connected between the actuator and ground.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Kojima, Enomoto and Hammond, alone or in combination. Rather, the Kojima negative resistance circuits 36, 37 are connected between the actuator and a signal source.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8-9 and 12 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4-7, 10-11 and 13-16 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1, 8-9 and 12.

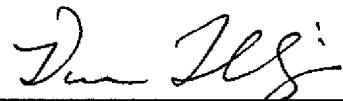
In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to

PATENT
Serial No. 10/540,687
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on November 15, 2007

submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheets (5 sheets including FIGs 1-6)

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